



CANNON BUILDING
861 SILVER LAKE BLVD., SUITE 203
DOVER, DELAWARE 19904-2467

STATE OF DELAWARE
BOARD OF ARCHITECTS

TELEPHONE: (302) 744-4500
FAX: (302) 739-2711
WEBSITE: DPR.DELAWARE.GOV
EMAIL: customerservice.dpr@state.de.us

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES:	BOARD OF ARCHITECTS
MEETING DATE AND TIME:	Wednesday, January 20, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.
PLACE:	861 Silver Lake Blvd., Conference Room A, Second floor, Dover, Delaware
MINUTES APPROVED:	February 4, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Mateyko, RA, Professional Member, President
Paul Guggenberger, RA, Professional Member
Kevin Wilson, RA, Professional Member, Secretary
Richard Wertz, RA, Professional Member

DIVISION STAFF/DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

Flora Peer, Administrative Specialist II
Jennifer Singh, Deputy Attorney General

ABSENT

OTHERS PRESENT

Peter Jennings, AIA Delaware
Patrick Ryan, AIA Delaware
Philip R. Conte, AIA Delaware
Nancy Payne, AIA Delaware

Call to Order

Mr. Wilson called the meeting to order at 9:00a.m.

Discussion of Proposed Bill with AIA

Mr. Ryan stated that the AIA had no objection to the proposed changes to §307 and §308, with the exception of paragraph f in §307. Mr. Ryan read §307(f) out loud and stated that it was part of house bill 103 that went through the house last year and never made it to the senate, the removal of paragraph (f) would assist in the Boards cleanup of the laws. Mr. Ryan stated that the AIA did not agree with the changes to §309, which has to do with reciprocity. Mr. Ryan explained that NCARB is the national standard and that NCARB assures that applicants perusing licensure in Delaware meet the national standard. Mr. Ryan gave some history of NCARB and the Boards statute before NCARBs standards were adopted. Mr. Ryan stated that the AIA suggests that the Board maintains the NCARB standards that are in place now because it gives the protection that people requesting licensure in Delaware meet the minimum qualifications. Mr. Ryan stated that the AIA would like the Board to hold

off on the changes to §309 until after the end of January, spring and the annual NCARB meetings because it is a big topic nationally, and address the changes when there is more information. Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Ryan about opinion about what the Board should do for reciprocity candidates that hold a BEA certificated if the new BEA standards fall short of what he considers should be the standard for background and the time to obtain a certificate. Mr. Ryan stated that he would probably support the NCARB model regulations and statute. If NCARB came up with a three year model instead of six, Mr. Ryan's thoughts are that there should be a group with in the BEA committee and NCARB, to develop a monograph for particular section that a candidate was deficient in, to evaluate if someone meets the requirement. NCARB could have a policy to be developed by all the states to address that it would be a step in the right direction, for now it is just duration. Mr. Wilson stated that the question was how to offer an alternative in Delaware for licensure and reciprocity to open up a pathway for those who do not have an NCARB certificate. The applicant would still go through an education analysis through an accepted national model and present the analysis, which would show any deficiencies, to the Board. Mr. Ryan stated, years ago, there was a chart where experience and education could be calculated. Later when it came to reciprocity, they found that many states had their own version of the chart which created many problems. That is why the national standard was adopted for reciprocity. It's not that the chart would not work it just has its own set of problems. It would put the responsibility on the Board to whether the applicant is qualified.

Mr. Jennings stated that he supports waiting until after the NCARBs spring regional and annual meetings. Mr. Jennings stated that the danger of not adopting NCARBs national standard would be heading down the path of states diverging. If the Board decided to require more IDP time, it would make it harder for those applying to other states to meet the requirements. Mr. Jennings stated that what NCARB offers is most helpful to small states that do not have the staff to review applicant's credentials.

Mr. Jennings questioned how NCARB decided on the one year IDP. Mr. Guggenberger stated that NCARBs findings in 54 jurisdictions showed that states are substantially similar and that is how NCARB came to the one year IDP. Mr. Jennings stated that NCARB had made summery of changes to the BEA and the information was on the NCARB website.

Mr. Guggenberger questioned what would happen if the Board delayed the changes.

Ms. Singh stated that the bill would be delayed for a year and a half if the Board waited until the NCARB spring meeting. Mr. Guggenberger stated that law adopts NCARB by default. Ms. Singh stated that the Board is delegating to an outside party which charges thousands of dollars.

Mr. Ryan stated that he understood the Boards concerns but still thinks it would be beneficial to wait and see what the national consensus will be. Mr. Guggenberger stated that in the meantime the Board would be forced to turn down applicants that the Board agrees are qualified to practice safely in Delaware. Mr. Wilson questioned if AIA does not support NCARBs changes to the BEA process, would there be an opportunity to develop a system to analyze educational background, and if so, it should be explored right now. Mr. Jennings explained NCARBs process for reviewing education. Mr. Jennings questioned if the proposal was for the Board to develop its own BEA process in house, Mr. Wilson said that was correct. Mr. Ryan stated that question could be brought up at the NCARB meeting and the Board could request training. Ms. Singh stated that currently, under §307(a)(1), the Board can evaluate education outside of NAAB accreditation. Ms. Singh stated that the Board could add to §307 to include applicants that are licensed in a substantially similar state or five years of experience.

Mr. Conte stated he attended the meeting as the AIA present to assist in coming to a resolution and was hoping this meeting would narrow in on some of these issues. Mr. Conte added that he understood the Boards frustrations. Mr. Conte summarized his experience for the Board. Mr. Conte stated that people going through school now know the requirements. The pool of applicants that are affected by the proposed reciprocity change is very small now. These people that have many years of experience but graduated many years ago and do not meet the educational requirements. Mr. Conte stated that in his opinion experience carries a lot of weight. Mr. Conte clarified that he was not speaking for AIA, this is his opinion. Ms. Singh stated that the changes have been proposed for

people in that situation, with many years of experience and a degree that either from a school that was not NAAB accredited at the time. The Board has encountered dozens of such applications and is striving to make provisions for those with experience.

Mr. Conte stated in his personal opinion as an architect, the AIA should not hold up the Board in the ability to grant licensure. Mr. Ryan stated that the AIA does not want to prevent those with years of experience that are deficient in education from getting licensed. There are programs in place that allow them to meet the NCARB standards.

Ms. Singh stated that the Board could add another option to the law for reciprocity. The subcommittee discussed adding to the law for reciprocity. Ms. Singh stated that with the current statute there's no way to fill the education gap with experience.

Mr. Wilson proposed language for §309, expand the second paragraph to allow those licensed in a substantially similar state come in through reciprocity, and the states that do not have similar licensure requirements would present the Board with five years of experienced in order to be granted licensure. Mr. Ryan stated that would be a good start but would still wait until the NCARB meetings are over to see what other information presents itself. Mr. Ryan stated he was hesitant to come to an agreement today. Mr. Wilson stated that even after the changes in the BEA the Board will be in the same position.

Mr. Conte stated that was his understanding that the Board is still open to want NCARB has to offer. Young architects are encouraged to obtain an NCARB certificate to make it easier to obtain reciprocity all over the country. The amount of applicants requesting reciprocity without an NCARB certificate is shrinking. The Board and the AIA could come to an agreement on an alternative to fill in the gap.

Mr. Wilson asked the AIA members to consider the changes he proposed earlier.

Ms. Singh questioned what would be the acceptable amount of experience. Mr. Guggenberger stated that the proposal was five years. Ms. Singh suggested that to change to twenty years of experience.

Mr. Wertz suggested 13 years of experience, which has been used by other states.

Ms. Singh stated that an updated proposed bill for §309 would be presented to the Board at the next meeting on February 4, 2015 for review. Information will be sent to the AIA after the Board reviews the updated bill.

Mr. Wilson thanked the members of the AIA for coming.

Adjournment

With no further business before the board, Mr. Wilson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wertz to adjourn the public meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10: 45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Flora Peer', with a stylized, cursive script.

Flora Peer
Administrative Assistant II